

November 1, 1951

Dr. A. J. Salle
Department of Bacteriology
University of California
Los Angeles 27, Calif.

Dear Dr. Salle:

About two years ago, you were kind enough to send us transfers of the *Staphylococcus aureus* cultures which you used in the interesting "transformation experiments" published in 1948. As I found in conversation with Dr. Jann, we were unsuccessful in our attempts to prepare active DNA extracts owing to our ~~mis~~interpretation of the term "alcohol" on line 40, p. 789 of your report. Meanwhile, we have run into a somewhat similar system in the *Salmonella* group, and have not done anything further with *Staphylococci*, although I should like to take this up again in the future when time permits.

At the present time, we are engaged in preserving our stock culture collection (including over 2000 mutants and the like) in order to prevent just such misadventures as we experienced with *S. aureus*. Although we still have the 6538 strain, I regret that we have lost the Smith strain which you sent us. May I ask the favor of another slant of the Smith strain?

If I may ask another favor, might I also have the recipe you used for the Chapman-Stone medium? I must admit to having been confused by the account given by Chapman (1946).

I am not sure whether I mentioned this before, but Burnet & McKie (1929) *Austr. J. Exp. Biol. etc.*, 6:21, noted that a phage B provoked resistant mutants from a white coccus, SF, many of which gave rise to aureus-pigmented types. I previously thought your result could be explained from Burnet's, But I could find no sign of lysogenicity in either of your strains, and I wonder now whether the converse might not hold.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics

P.S. May I acknowledge receipt of a number of reprint-request cards from Dr. Jann and yourself. I have been pleased to put both your names on our regular mailing list, and will appreciate exchange.

2/97 - only found Knopfmacher + Salle in Lactose